U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 5, 2019

Mr. Russ Kick
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 47323
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No.: ES19-000729

Dear Mr. Kick:

This acknowledges receipt of your February 26, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Your request was received by mail on March 5, 2019.

NHTSA may assess fees to process your FOIA request. We may not process your request until all fee issues are resolved. Fees may be assessed even if the search does not produce responsive records or the agency withholds them from disclosure.

NHTSA employs a multitrack system for processing FOIA requests that: 1) distinguishes between a simple request and a complex request that may require more time to process; and 2) the number of records involved with respect to the request. In general, a simple request for a specific record or a small number of records is typically processed within 20-30 business days. A complex request that requires a broad search and/or a review of a voluminous amount of records may take longer. When NHTSA determines a request is complex, we notify the requester of estimated processing time. We process complex requests on a first-in, first-out basis.

Currently, the agency is experiencing a significant backlog of simple and complex FOIA requests. If you submitted a request that appears to seek a significant number of records, we strongly encourage you to reformulate or narrow your request to limit the scope of your request in order to qualify for the simple track. Processing complex requests can take over a year given current conditions and agency resources.

You may find more information related to the FOIA process and how NHTSA processes your FOIA here: http://www.dot.gov/foia. If you have any questions, or have an interest in narrowing your request to ensure timely processing of your request, please contact us at (202) 366-1834.

Sincerely,

NHTSA's FOIA Office